



# SOUTHEAST NEWS

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## ***Christmas ... Memory and Hope Between***

*Tim Downs, Conference Minister*

As I write this it is mid-November. I have heard my first Christmas carols over the speakers in department stores. The season of Advent is around the corner and Christmas is fast upon us.

As we enter the Advent-Christmas season, we enter a season that captures beautifully the sense that we are a people "memory and hope between." This is a time when the alchemy of God's Promise unfolds in our midst. Christmas memories are magically warm. It is a season of wonderful anticipation; kisses are sweeter, embraces warmer, and cookies in the oven more fragrant. Carols make my heart soar and carry on their wings memories of Christmases over the last half century.

Yet Christmas is not only memory. It is a time when memory and hope collide and the magic of God's Promise showers down. For as wonderful as my Christmas memories may be, so too, my hopes surge toward the Child in the manger, "Emmanuel, God with us." This is the season when Love is unbound from the routine of everyday. We can simply love and live out our "yes" toward one another. This is a season where our hope is unfettered by natural and inevitable limits and disappointments, and we can live toward that Promise which lies in the light of the star of Bethlehem.

We are released in this season by the magic of God's Promise made through and within us, and made through and in the Child who is born to us. "O come, o come Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel" ... and ransom all of us.

And so, dear friends, in this season, may we all reach toward the magic of God's Promise. Taste it, and know it in this season, "memory and hope between."

## ***The Gift and The Promise***

We have been chosen! Isn't that a wonderful statement? We have been chosen by the Massachusetts Conference of the UCC to receive a one-time grant for church development. This grant is to come from the current financial campaign that has just begun in the Massachusetts Conference—"The Gift and The Promise," based on the Gift—"Jesus Christ, God's supreme Gift of love and justice to us and to the whole world" and the Promise—"Neither death, nor life ... nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord." We in the Southeast Conference are honored to have been chosen to be a part of this campaign. The Massachusetts Conference believes in us and knows we can grow.

The Gift and The Promise is a three-year campaign with a goal of \$12,000,000.00. The Campaign is composed of four areas: I. Strengthen Individual Churches, II. Strengthen Churches Acting Together, III. Strengthen Our Wider Church and Covenantal Relationships, and IV. Administrative and Campaign Expenses. We are part of "Strengthen Our Wider Church and Covenantal Relationships."

With the successful completion of the Gift and Promise Campaign, the Southeast Conference will receive a one-time grant for church growth of \$150,000! Let us hold the people in the Massachusetts Conference in our prayers as we say "Thank you" and ask God's blessing on them for success beyond their goal, and for abundant blessings in the lives of their people.

## ***Be sure you get the following events/ dates on your calendar now!***

*Installation of our Conference Minister, Dr. Timothy C. Downs*

Date:            Sunday, March 2, 1997

Place: Central Congregational, Atlanta

Time: 5:00 p.m.

*Special guests will include our United Church of Christ President, Paul H. Sherry; Southern Conference Minister Rollin Russell; and others.*

### *Mini-Camp*

Dates: April 18-20

Place: Panama City, FL

### *Southeast Conference Annual Meeting*

Dates: June 13-15, 1997 (Father's Day weekend)

Place: Shocco Springs Conference Center

### *General Synod XXI*

Dates: July 4-8, 1997

Place: Columbus, Ohio

### *Southern Regional Women's Retreat*

Dates: September 26-28, 1997

Place: Blowing Rock, North Carolina

## ***Letter from the Conference Minister***

Dear Friends,

I cannot tell you with enough vigor how wonderful it has been to travel to the far reaches of the Southeast Conference, to preach in congregations as far flung as South Carolina and Tennessee, South Alabama and everywhere in between. In the last letter I wrote that I felt as if I was feeling my way through a fog as outlines of what lay ahead were indistinct and unclear. And yet there is a clarity that is emerging in this gathering of God's people which we call the Southeast Conference.

In my travels I have discovered Congregational Methodists, Elder Right Christians, churches established by Reformers of Switzerland and Evangelicals of Germany. I have found the African-American Congregationalists of the American Missionary Association, and the New

England Congregationalists in a sometimes zesty mixture, reminding me of a phrase used by Avery Post to describe the United Church of Christ when he noted that “the UCC is an ecumenical catalyst born in an ecumenical crucible.” That is to say we are a denomination which gathered in an ecumenical age to give witness to the unity that we know in Jesus Christ, and in giving witness, to gather people from the far-flung reaches of Christendom into a community of faith which declares “that they may all be one.”

We, in the Southeast Conference, stretch the definition of diversity, not simply in the diversity of the communities in which our congregations serve, nor in the diversity of the people who occupy our pews, but we stretch the meaning of diversity theologically, too. But, friends, what a joy it is to serve among a people such as we are, who seek to rise above our differences to claim that which unites us. I look forward to my continued travels among you, and to discovering in those travels the delightful diversity which comprises and defines who we are.

In Faith,  
Timothy C. Downs,  
Conference Minister

## ***Report from Moderator Annie Neal***

On September 27-28, 1996, the Board of Directors convened its first meeting since the June Annual Meeting weekend. It was a good meeting and began with an audit presentation facilitated by Steve Parker, Finance Committee Chairperson, and David Speno, Treasurer.

To move the Southeast Conference forward, short term and long term, will mean the acquisition and stewardship of our funds along with a viable programmatic thrust.

Our conference minister, Timothy Downs, will be taking a leadership role at our November Program Planning Meeting as we review the work of the commissions and establish a timeline and framework for moving toward restructuring. If you have not had an opportunity to share your concerns or recommendations with a Board member or the conference minister, please let us hear from you.

... I look forward to working with each of you during this challenging year. God bless and keep each one.

Annie W. Neal, Ph.D.

## ***The Rev. Andrew Young Writes ...***

*An Easy Burden* by Andrew J. Young is the recently published book of his memoirs through the time of the Civil Rights movement. The October 13th edition of the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, the section entitled "Perspective," carried a wonderful write-up of Andy, complete with "A conversation with Andrew Young" with *Journal-Constitution* reporter Jim Auchmuty, and "Timeline: A life spent on the frontline," compiled by staff researcher John Jackson.

Hopefully, most of you saw it and were able to take the time to read it. If not, we do have a copy of it in the office that you are welcome to read. It is always good to be aware of the journey of "one of our own."

## ***The Christmas Fund Needs You!***

The Christmas Fund provides bonus checks at Christmas time to low-income retired clergy and widowed spouses; provides emergency grants for unexpected crises; pays some health plan and insurance costs for disabled clergy; supplements small pensions of low-income retired clergy and widowed spouses; subsidizes health plan costs for qualifying low-income lay worker and clergy retirees.

The Christmas Fund is an opportunity for us to express our loving appreciation for clergy, teachers, and missionaries in a most helpful way. Open your hearts and ask God what amount to give—then give it in joyful thanksgiving as you hum or sing, "Joy to the World, the Lord is come!"

## ***"For Such a Time at This"***

*as reported by Kathryn Robinson*

The Southeast Conference Women's Retreat, held at Shocco Springs Conference Center in Talladega, Alabama, September 20-22, 1996, was wonderful. Those who attended experienced enrichment, renewal, and

fellowship—the foci of the Planning Committee. The theme “For Such a Time As This” was evident in all aspects of the retreat, and the logo, designed by Paula Edmondson ... visibly and appropriately supported the theme.

Enrichment and renewal came in variety of ways. Relating the story of Esther, our keynote speaker, the Rev. Linda Petrucelli (United Church Board for World Ministries), reminded us that “it’s about time” for us to search ourselves to discover what kind of time we relate to. Is our way of living mostly clock-time, heart-time, or life-time? In other words, are we ruled by the clock, by the heart, or are we in a life-changing time? We shared with one another in small groups and talked about how we moved in and out of different times, often within the same hour or day, and depending on our “task” of the moment. Linda also suggested ways for us to share the gift of time to further the mission of the Church. For Sunday worship, Linda spoke about how Jesus always operated in heart time and about how His heart was always open to the “stranger.” She talked about the open table and how there are no strangers at the table. In this light we moved into our Communion time.

More enrichment came as many of us toured Talladega College, a timely opportunity with the American Missionary Association celebrating its 150th anniversary this year. And panelists Josephine Woodson, Harvetta Barr and Linda Petrucelli shared how one is moved to action in response to adverse community situations. They encouraged us all to listen to things going on around us so that we, too, can respond with positive action.

Our Silent Auction—really not “silent”—brought in \$333.42. Our varied workshops, led by Marcia Bentley, Erna Bryant, Rev. June Doster, Pam Rapp, and Rev. Kathryn Smallwood, awakened us to the prosperities as well as the adversities in “such a time as this.” These ranged from youth violence, “inclusiveness” and “exclusiveness,” spirituality, sandwich generations to make their voices heard.

Our conference women, Rev. Timothy C. Downs, seemed quite comfortable among the 80+ women as he discussed how the Conference can best serve lay and ordained women in the future. He also posed questions and did a lot of listening to the women who came to his workshop.

On Friday and Saturday evenings, we fellowshiped in a more personal way. The East Alabama, Talladega, and Birmingham churches prepared refreshments, for which we say, "Thank You!" The program "Women in Story and Song" provided a relaxed atmosphere. In addition to vocalist Sandra Moore and Janell Landis' puppets, the Tennessee women led the group in doing the Macarena—a fun way to test your rhythm and coordination to music.

For the leadership of the spiritual/worship aspect of the retreat we thank Elizabeth Clement, worship leader; Nan Wright, song leader; and Carolyn Munchus, Sunday worship pianist. Erna Bryant dedicated the donations to Women's Mite during worship (\$432.25).

## ***Yubenia Prigmore Youth Fund***

Yubenia Prigmore, known throughout our Conference for her leadership in both the AL/TN Association and on the Conference Board of Directors, died November 1st. Yubenia was a teacher, by professions, and loved children and youth. Yubenia was one of those persons who radiated the sweetness of God's love as she lived her life.

To honor her life as a committed Christian in the United Church of Christ, her family has asked that a Yubenia Prigmore Fund for Southeast Conference Youth be established as a memorial to her. If you would like to contribute to this fund, you may send your contribution to the Southeast Conference office. Checks should be made out to the SEC Yubenia Youth Fund.

## ***Wanted: A Few Good Women!***

Do you know a United Church of Christ woman in the Southeast Conference who is a committed Christian and has made an outstanding contribution to her church and community? Someone who is an example to us all?

If so, the Southeast Conference Commission of Women in Church and Society would like to know about her and to consider her as a possible Honored Laywoman for General Synod XXI (Columbus, Ohio, July 3-8, 1997). Every two years the Commission chooses up to three

laywomen from our Southeast Conference to be honored in this way by the Coordinating Center for Women at General Synod.

Please send your nominations to the Women's Commission, including your reasons for the recommendation to the Women's Commission, in care of the Southeast Conference office, by February 1, 1997.

## ***Some Good (Financial) News***

For years, the UCC has reported that male parish clergy make substantially more money than their female counterparts. For 1995 and 1996, the Pension Board reports that the gap is about 20 percent. But these figures only survey churches which are members of the pension plan. So the research staff of the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries analyzed information from all churches that report to the UCC Yearbook office, and those figures look better. In the 1990s female clergy have made more than 90 cents for every dollar male clergy made. Sheila Kelly, Minister for Research Information for the Homeland Board, says that for the first time, there were enough women serving as pastor to make such a study possible (About one of every four UCC clergy are women, and about 30 percent of those women are pastors of local churches).

The Pension Boards member figures for 1996 do reveal that the Florida Conference pays the most generous salaries and that, nationwide, seven more women (for a total of 27) joined the \$50,000 club. Wouldn't it be nice if clergywomen's pay equaled men's? And in a similar vein, wouldn't it be nice if all the churches subscribed to the General Synod recommended 14 percent annuity payments?

## **Association Annual Meeting News**

The four associations of the Southeast Conference have had their annual meetings ... In the future, I would love to have a report and pictures from each of the meetings to include in the *Southeast News*.

Tim Downs attended all of the association annual meetings and came away with good information through his "hearings." You have



already become very real to him, both as a body of people and as individuals with whom he has spoken.

*Below is a listing of the officers of each association.*

#### **ALABAMA-TENNESSEE ASSOCIATION**

<b>Moderator</b>	<b>Rev. Ed Schneider ('97)</b> Community Church P.O. Box 167 Pleasant Hill, TN 38578 615/277-3193 (W)
<b>Vice-Moderator</b>	<b>Ms. Denise Becker ('97)</b> 1822 Mars Street LaVergne, TN 37086 615/355-9814 (H)
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Rev. John Gill ('97)</b> Church of the Savior 934 Weisgarber Road Knoxville, TN 37909 423/584-7531 (W)
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Ms. Valerie Patterson ('98)</b> 2701 Royal Lane Pelham, AL 35124 205/987-2605 (H)

#### **EAST ALABAMA/WEST GEORGIA ASSOCIATION**

<b>Moderator</b>	<b>Mr. Jimmy Pilkington</b> 303 Dallis Street LaGrange, GA 30240 706/882-5611 (H)
<b>Vice Moderator</b>	<b>Rev. Bill Lloyd ('97)</b> Route 1, Box 3460 Woodbury, GA 30293 706/553-9900 (H)
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Ms. Betty Moon ('97)</b> Route 1, Box 25 Wadley, AL 36276

**Treasurer** 205/395-4153 (H)  
**Mr. Don Harmon ('97)**  
6107 16th Street S.W.  
Lanett, AL 36863  
334/576-2304 (H)

#### **GEORGIA/SOUTH CAROLINA ASSOCIATION**

**Moderator** **Rev. Artis Johnson ('98)**  
Route 1, Box 860  
Boston, GA 31626  
912/498-2345 (H)

**Vice Moderator** **Mr. Roger Vonland ('98)**  
1094 Bellaire Court N.W.  
Lawrenceville, GA 30243  
770/682-5320 (H)

**Secretary** **Ms. Essie Holman ('97)**  
3626 Revere Road S.W.  
Atlanta, GA 30331  
404/349-3120 (H)

**Treasurer** **Ms. Bette Thomas ('98)**  
3507 Leonardo Drive S.W.  
Atlanta, GA 30331  
404/344-9538 (H)

#### **SOUTH ALABAMA/NORTHWEST FLORIDA ASSOCIATION**

**Moderator** **Rev. Marvin Brand ('97)**  
Route 10, Box 296  
Andalusia, AL 36420  
334/222-1789 (H)

**Vice Moderator** **Mr. Woody Clark ('98)**  
Route 6, Box 28  
Andalusia, AL 36420  
334/222-4030 (H)

**Secretary/  
Treasurer** **Mrs. Virada Brand ('98)**  
Route 10, Box 296  
Andalusia, AL 36420

## ***There's One In Every Window***

*from Keeping You Posted*

The September issue of *Life* magazine features a dramatic picture of the citizens of the Billings, Montana, lined up on the main street, each holding a menorah (candelabrum). It is a symbol of the community's defiance of hate groups that had attacked Jewish homes with rock throwing and racist graffiti.

In the city of 85,000 there are only about 100 Jews. But when skinheads hurled a cinder block through 5-year-old Isaac Schnitzer's bedroom window, destroying his menorah, the town dug in its heels.

Margaret MacDonald, head of the state council of churches, a member of First Congregational UCC, and assistant moderator of the 1997 UCC General Synod, persuaded her church to distribute some 200 paper menorahs for members to hang in their windows. "I remembered what the Danes did in World War II," she said. "When the Nazis forced Jews to wear a yellow Star of David, every Dane wore one."

But the 200 menorahs did not stop the hate. There were more rocks, a dead cat and vandalism. The community redoubled its efforts and soon there were 10,000 paper menorahs fluttering in as many windows. The terror stopped. "It made a big impression on the children," says MacDonald. "They saw adults taking risks and a courageous stand for minorities." This all happened in 1993 ... MacDonald has been honored by human rights groups throughout the country ...

***"Regarding those churches that have been  
burned down—Regarding the mettle of a  
people who wrought and hammer still a  
mighty dream"***

*by Douglas Hatcher*

*The following is excerpted from the Special Summer '96 Edition of In Common, the newsletter of the Consultation on Church Union. This articles was the entire Special Summer Edition and we have a copy in the office for any of you who would like to read the complete writing.*

"These church burnings anger me. They trespass upon and kick up the dust of the holy ground beneath the black church. But these burnings do more than blaspheme dwelling places of the Lord. They stir a God-fearing and God-loving nation and singe the outer fibers of the mantle that binds her people—democracy itself. But I say to those who commit these acts, you could not have chosen a people on whom to have less effect, for you cannot burn the foundation of the black church. More than mortar, more than brick, more than wood, or more than concrete comprise it. It is made of that stuff which is unshakable and inextinguishable, and, unbeknownst to you, inconsumable by fire. That stuff is the stuff of faith.

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"You can burn to the ground and char into meal places of worship, but you cannot destroy faith. The darker you try to make our world, the greater advantage you give to us, the children of a benevolent and engaged Creator, for we deal with you as a blind man dealing with a perpetrator in darkness. We possess a sight that comes from an eye of the mind, an eye of the heart, and an eye of the soul. And we feel our way through the dark with the eye that enables us to see God—faith. Burn our black churches—and let them become torches to light our way to forging real justice where justice is lacking in deed and in spirit. Burn our black churches—and let the ensuing fires that flame luminate the work we have yet still to do.

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"The issue (before us today) is the promise of America. A promise our forebears bore by their blood, and a promise they tempered by their indomitable love for liberty.

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“Burn the black churches of our country—but beware that the fires you set—set a people’s heart afire, a heart that yearns for justice, relishes truth, and cherishes love. A heart—when so stirred—serves the freedom-loving people of this country more still. A heart—when so moved—magnifies the mettle of a people who wrought and hammer still a mighty dream.”

*(Douglas Hatcher is chief writer for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting and Editor-in-Chief of the CPB World Wide Website. He is an Episcopal layman and lives in Arlington, VA.)*

## ***Help Rebuild A Burned Church!***

*A Letter from Anne Ariail, Disaster Coordinator*

Dear Friends,

The United Church of Christ has a church to rebuild right in South Carolina! We, the UCC, have been assigned an African-American burned church, First Thankful Baptist Church, Estill, South Carolina 22918. Isn’t that a wonderful name for a church? Estill, S.C., is just over the South Carolina border, near I-95, about 1 1/2 hours north of Savannah.

Yesterday, November 17th, representatives of the United Church of Christ visited with the Christian people at morning worship in a neighboring church in Estill. Progress is evident at First Thankful Church. The church is dried-in; the plumbing and electrical are near completion. Next, the building inspection certificates will be secured. In the near future the church will be ready for drywall.

The Christian people of Estill are eager to meet us and have us in their community. Now is the time to begin planning to participate in this experience of helping fellow Christians rebuild their house of worship. Call the Southeast Conference office or write Dr. Tim Downs and let them know of your church’s resources; i.e., financial support, work crews to dry wall, paint, lay carpet, etc. There will also be needs for lighting fixtures,

hymnals, pew Bibles, choir robes, church pews, etc. All building supplies, paint and some equipment will be furnished.

For those wishing the up-close and personal experience, think in terms of a 5-day trip to beautiful South Carolina, once we know the dates. Crews will be asked to supply small hand tools such as hammers and paint equipment.

There is plenty of room on the church property for RVs. Crews will be responsible for paying their own travel expenses. Sleeping accommodations are being worked out. There is a small motel in Estill and the church is researching a possible price break. There is a kitchen in the fellowship hall which did not burn.

The National Council of Churches estimates that a church can be rebuilt in six weeks if the work and materials are continuous in supply. If we have a large enough volunteer staff and funds, the United Church of Christ can even be assigned another church to help rebuild!

Peace,  
Anne Ariail

## ***News from Micronesia ...***

### **Excerpts from Karl and Jan Whiteman's Newsletter**

Karl has been busy with his new duties as liaison pastor to the Micronesian Council of the UCC in Pohnpei, Chuuk, Kosrae and the Marshall Islands. In July he helped with the annual pastors and deacons schools for the pastors and deacons of all the atolls in the Marshalls. Over 200 people attended and Karl was very much involved in helping to teach them new ways to make the Gospel exciting and relevant to their congregations on their home atolls. He will teach at least three other island groups pastors' schools like this within one year. He has also preached a number of times at the Uliga Church, been asked to share at several churches, and shares leadership of an ecumenical/international English-speaking weekly Bible Study.

Karl and Jan are attending a series of Marshallese language classes, which they are enjoying. The language has many "corrupted" English and Japanese words and many words have 2 or 3 different meanings.

They are discovering that many things are done at the last minute, advance preparation not being a priority. This is very Marshallese and normal so they are having to learn to “go with the flow.”

Jan started teaching 6th grade in September. There is no lending library for the children that attend Uliga Protestant School. The reading level is very low—her 6th graders are reading at about a 2nd-grade level. Jan is hoping that if she gets some reading materials at a low enough reading level for these students, that have pictures also, she’ll be able to help improve their English. The Uliga Protestant School was the first private elementary school there, and was called the “Mission School” started by the Congregationalists.

The weather is hot and humid, and they are thankful for any and every rain. Water is a precious commodity in the Marshalls. They have city water which is supplied by catching the rain water off of the airport runway and stored in a huge reservoir. When water supplies are good, city water is only on every other day. Right now it is only on every third day, so they are extremely conservatives with its use.

Fresh produce is only available when the ships come in (about every 21 days); however, fish is abundant, and at low tide, when the moon is full, people go out on the reef and pick up lobsters.

Thank you for your love, prayers, concern, support. Keep us in your daily prayers and drop us a line whenever you can or more often if possible!

Blessings to you all and ELON YOKWE!

(Much Love) Karl & Jan

## ***Lanett Congregational Christian Church Celebrates Centennial, Roy Bain, Pastor***

*The history of the Lanett church is fascinating. It includes five different church buildings.*

In 1894 the Presbyterians, Baptists, Methodists and Christians worshiped together in a small frame building built by David L. Adams, a Presbyterian. Over the next two years the Baptists, Methodists and Presbyterians each moved out to build their own churches, and in 1896

the Lanett Christian Church was organized and continued to worship in this beginning building until it was sold.

### **1898-1922**

In 1898 the church bought a lot from David Adams, and soon after, Pastor H. W. Elder and Walter Howard walked to an old oak tree on the property one moonlit night and held a prayer meeting, and the building was begun. The church was built complete with a bell in its steeple. The first service was held in the spring of 1898.

### **1922-1953**

This building was used until 1922 when a new church was built right next door, under the leadership of Pastor H. M. Gray. The bell from the first church was brought over and placed in the new steeple. The old church was then torn down and sold to Mr. Alford Cook, who used it to rebuild his house which had been destroyed by fire. This building served the congregation for 31 years. It was during this time that the Christian churches became affiliated with the Congregational Christian Churches of America, becoming known as the Congregational Christian Churches.

### **1953-1969**

In 1953 a new lot was purchased and under the leadership of Pastor Joe A. French, a colonial brick building was erected and the first service held November 22, 1953. Once again, the original church bell was brought along and placed in the steeple. The cross on the front of the church was made from beams which were taken from Mr. Alford Cook's home, which had been built from lumber from the first Lanett Christian Church built in 1898. The old church was sold to the Lanett Assembly of God. In 1957 the Congregational Christian Churches and the Evangelical and Reformed Church merged to form the United Church of Christ.

### **May 19, 1969**

A tragedy of fire! On this night, fire of undetermined origin destroyed this 16-year-old building. It started in the attic section of one wing of the building and rapidly spread over the whole attic area, leaving only the walls standing. Only the office, study and parlor were not



damaged by fire or water. The following morning the Deacons, Trustees and Finance Board met with the pastor and voted unanimously to rebuild immediately exactly as before.

### **1970-1996**

On Monday afternoon, February 23, 1970, almost a year after they toppled, the steeple was raised into position and the 73-year-old bell was re-hung in the belfry. The same wooden cross, made from wood taken from the church built in 1898 was repaired and placed on the front of the building. Although construction of the building was completed on June 24, 1970, due to a manufacturing error and delays, the pews were not installed until the following December; thus, the first service held in the sanctuary was on Christmas Sunday, December 20, 1970. Special dedication services were held on April 11, 1971 and on Sunday night, July 18, 1971, it was announced that all indebtedness against the church building and furnishings had been paid off. And so we say, congratulations on your first 100 years, Lanett Congregational Christian UCC, and blessings, joy and peace for your next 100!

## ***Letter From The Editor ...***

Dear Friends,

There is so much we could do with the *Southeast News*, but I need your help. We need to be a team, all across the Conference—a family of United Church of Christ persons sharing our joys and our sorrows with one another. We are a very large conference, geographically, and we need to reach out toward one another to know what is happening where.

Please let us know of any particular events, celebrations, etc. at your churches, or in your association, which might of interest to others in the Conference. And good clear pictures enhance our newsletter. When you send them, please send me a listing of the persons in the photos so I can caption them.

You know, sometimes when people wonder why they were not mentioned in prayers and concerns, or some other articles, it may just be that we were not aware of your situation. We in the Conference office care very much about each and every one of you.

I am trying to always have an area for the women of the Southeast Conference. And I would love to include more association news, with photos, so that all of the associations could enjoy what is going on in their sister/brother associations. I would also like to focus on an individual church whenever we can. The article on the Lanett Church with all of its history really came from the program they had printed for their Centennial Celebration.

One thing in particular I am asking for is to hear from those congregations which have already done something for the burned churches. We would love for you to "share your story" in the *Southeast News*.

Please be sure to let us know of any illnesses or surgeries pending for any of our clergy. Remember that Tim as conference minister is pastor to our pastors.

And, speaking of Tim, did you know we had a DINOSAUR CELEBRATION for him early in November? Tim is now a half century old!

Shalom,  
Nan Wright

## ***Uplands Names New Assistant Director***

Nancy W. Himell has been named Assistant Director/Comptroller for Uplands Retirement Village. Mrs. Himell holds a B.S. degree in medical technology from the University of Tennessee and is completing work for the Master of Business Administration degree at Tennessee Technological University. She is also a registered medical technician and laboratory supervisor. Her educational preparation at the master's level includes accounting, economics, marketing, management information systems, business policy communication, and quantitative analysis.

Her work experience includes positions as account supervisor and operational manager, contract specialist for health care providers, and sales supervisor.

Mrs. Himell lives in Cookeville, where her husband is an optician. She is a native Tennessean. Her outside activities include working with Habitat for Humanity; she plays golf and tennis.

## ***A Special Plea from Micronesia***

*God is very much at work here in the Marshall Islands as God is throughout Micronesia. Revival is beginning to happen. In three years, most of the funding provided by the United States will begin to taper off and end by the year 2001; it will have ceased. Countries like China, Korea, and Japan are poised, and in some cases already moving, to enter into this beautiful corner of God's creation with vices such as casino gambling, rampant construction, and other polluters of mind, soul, spirit, and land. These, with the possibility of nuclear dumping, are issues that affect not only the islands of the Pacific but humanity as well. Pray along with the Christian brothers and sisters here for a move of God's Spirit against the corruption and uncertainty that imminently lies ahead. The Church here is not unified and each denomination is seeking to battle these issues alone. There is very little trust factor among denominations and churches due to the influx of various cult groups. Pray for a spirit of ecumenism, cooperation and change to emerge quickly.*

## **But Not Today**

I shall grow old, perhaps, but not today,  
Not while my hopes are young, my spirit strong,  
My vision clear, because life has a way  
Of smoothing out the wrinkles with a song.

I shall grow old, perhaps, but not today,  
Not while my dreams remain a shining shield,  
My faith a lance, and 'neath a sky of gray,  
My colors wave upon the battlefield.

I shall grow old, perhaps, but not today,  
Not while this pen can write upon a page,  
And memories turn Winter into May,  
Shall this stout heart be brought to terms by age?

*(taken from the Pleasant Hill Courier)*

# OCWM GIVING 3RD QUARTER & YEAR TO DATE

<b>CHURCH</b>	<b>July-September</b>	<b>Total 1996</b>
<b>ALABAMA/TENNESSEE ASSOCIATION</b>		
ALPINE, KING'S CHAPEL	262.00	559.00
ATHENS, TRINITY CONGREGATIONAL	0.00	300.00
BELVIDERE, 1ST UNITED CHURCH	1,761.00	4,243.00
BIRMINGHAM, 1ST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH	2,400.00	4,900.00
BIRMINGHAM, PILGRIM	1,800.00	4,050.00
CHATTANOOGA, PILGRIM	2,423.17	10,03.67
CHATTANOOGA, SHEARES MEMORIAL	0.00	0.00
CROSSVILLE, UNITED CHRISTIAN CHURCH UCWF	0.00	200.00
CROSSVILLE, UNITED CHRISTIAN CHURCH	825.00	2,991.50
CULLMAN, ST. JOHN'S	2,025.00	5,400.00
DEER LODGE, CONGREGATIONAL	300.00	900.00
FAIRFIELD GLADE, COMMUNITY CHURCH	925.00	2,775.00
GARDEN CITY, CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN	115.50	346.50
HANCEVILLE, MOUNTAIN GROVE	0.00	0.00
HUNTSVILLE, UNITED CHURCH	500.00	2,500.00
KNOXVILLE, CHURCH OF THE SAVIOR	0.00	0.00
MARION, FIRST CONGREGATIONAL	0.00	0.00
MONTGOMERY, FIRST	0.00	3,800.00
NASHVILLE, 1ST UNITED CHURCH	1,250.01	3,750.03
NASHVILLE, BROOKMEADE	0.00	967.25
NASHVILLE, HOWARD	0.00	0.00
PLEASANT HILL, COMMUNITY CHURCH	4,251.00	11,336.00
SWEETWATER, FIRST	250.00	250.00
TALLADEGA, FIRST CONGREGATIONAL	0.00	0.00
TOUGALOO, UNION UCC	0.00	0.00
WAVERLY, UNITED COMMUNITY CHURCH	40.00	80.00
	<b>18,865.68</b>	<b>59,084.95</b>
<b>EAST ALABAMA/WEST GEORGIA ASSOCIATION</b>		
ALEXANDER CITY, FIRST	0.00	0.00
COLUMBUS, UNITED	0.00	0.00
DADEVILLE, ELDER	0.00	485.00
EAST TALLASSEE, CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN	200.00	300.00
FIVE POINTS, STATE LINE	0.00	0.00
LAFAYETTE, PLEASANT GROVE	0.00	339.00
LAGRANGE, HILLSIDE	0.00	0.00
LAGRANGE, UNITED	0.00	222.00

LANETT	832.00	2,368.00
PHENIX CITY, RUSSELL WOODS	380.00	760.00
PINE MOUNTAIN, OAK GROVE	0.00	0.00
ROANOKE, ANTIOCH	0.00	570.00
ROANOKE, BETHANY	0.00	0.00
ROANOKE, NEW HOPE	0.00	570.00
ROANOKE, NORTH MAIN	190.00	570.00
ROANOKE, ROCK STAND	0.00	0.00
VALLEY, PINE FOREST	0.00	0.00
WADLEY, CORINTH CHRISTIAN	119.00	238.00
WOODBURY, JONES CHAPEL	741.00	1,976.00
	<b>2,462.00</b>	<b>8,398.00</b>

#### **GEORGIA/SOUTH CAROLINA ASSOCIATION**

ATLANTA, CENTER CONGREGATIONAL	0.00	0.00
ATLANTA, CENTRAL CONGREGATIONAL	7,500.00	22,500.00
ATLANTA, CENTRAL CONGREGATIONAL WOMEN	0.00	200.00
ATLANTA, FIRST CHURCH	0.00	0.00
ATLANTA, GOOD SHEPHERD	0.00	0.00
ATLANTA, RUSH	0.00	0.00
BEACHTON, EVERGREEN CONGREGATIONAL	0.00	0.00
CHARLESTON, CIRCULAR	2,000.00	4,500.00
CHARLESTON, PLYMOUTH	0.00	0.00
COLUMBIA, COVENANT UCC	50.00	325.00
DEMOREST, FEDERATED	118.06	236.12
HAMPTON, TRINITY	0.00	165.00
MARIETTA, AMISTAD	0.00	0.00
MARIETTA, PILGRIMAGE	2,619.00	6,984.00
MIDWAY, CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH	0.00	450.00
SAVANNAH, FIRST	400.00	800.00
THOMASVILLE, BETHANY CONGREGATIONAL	0.00	0.00
	<b>12,687.06</b>	<b>36,160.12</b>

#### **SOUTH ALABAMA/NORTHWEST FLORIDA ASSOCIATION**

ANDALUSIA, ANTIOCH	0.00	0.00
ANDALUSIA, FIRST CC	110.00	385.00
BAKER, GOOD HOPE	0.00	0.00
BAKER, PYRON	0.00	0.00
BRANTLEY, LIBERTY CONGREGATIONAL	200.00	300.00
CLIO, NEW HOPE	0.00	0.00
	<b>310.00</b>	<b>685.00</b>

## **AROUND THE CONFERENCE**

Churches in Search

Atlanta, Central Congregational, associate pastor  
Atlanta, First Congregational, pastor  
Cullman, St. John's United, associate pastor  
Deer Lodge, Congregational Morgan County Parish, pastor  
Hampton, Trinity United, pastor  
LaGrange, United Congregational Christian, pastor  
Marion, First Congregational, pastor  
Montgomery, First Congregational Christian, pastor  
Pine Mountain, Oak Grove Congregational Christian, pastor  
Roanoke, North Main, pastor  
Waverly, United Community, pastor

### In Celebration of ...

Chris Hester, ordained at Roanoke, AL, Antioch Congregational Christian, October 13, 1996.

Roy Day, ordained at Center Congregational, Atlanta, October 13, 1996.

Rebecca Gaudino, ordained at Central Congregational, Atlanta, November 10.

Rob Heckathorne has been called to be the pastor of Ed Mehlhaff's church in Spring, Texas!

Pastor E. G. Clark, on his retirement November 10 from Corinth Christian, Wadley, AL.

"Festival of Life" celebration at Pleasant Hill Community Church the first weekend in November.

Lanett Congregational Christian, Centennial Celebration the third weekend in November.

### Prayers and Concerns

Hugh Lasseter, Jimmy Fields (pastor, Plymouth Congregational, Charleston) and Bob Kurtz (pastor, St. John's United, Cullman) are all recovering well from their respective surgeries.

Rev. Tom and Sharron Eckert are also doing well.

### Sympathy to ...

David Beebe, St. Louis, on the death of his wife, Judy.

Erston Butterfield, Pleasant Hill, on the death of his wife, Isabel.  
The family of Henry Weaver, Atlanta, who died October 12, 1996.  
The family of Yubenia Prigmore, Sweetwater, who died November 1st.

## CONFERENCE CALENDAR, 1996

### November 1996

28-29 Thu./Fri. Thanksgiving – OFFICE CLOSED

### December

1 – Sun. First Sunday in Advent  
4-8 Wed./Sun. Tim – conference in Chicago  
6 – Fri. First Day in Hanukkah  
7 – Sat. 10 a.m. – AL/TN Executive Council; AL/TN Church & Ministry meeting  
8 – Sun. Second Sunday in Advent  
15 – Sun. Third Sunday in Advent, 11 a.m. – Tim preaches in First Church, Montgomery  
3 p.m. – Bennie Liggins installed, Community Church, Montgomery  
22 – Sun. Fourth Sunday in Advent Christmas Fund Offering for Veterans of the Cross  
24 – Tues. Christmas Eve  
25 – Wed. Christmas Day – OFFICE CLOSED  
31 – Tues. New Year's Eve  
21 – Jan. 1 '97 Tim & family on vacation

### January 1997

1 – Wed. New Years' Day – OFFICE CLOSED  
3-4 Fri./Sat. Church Development Commission meeting with Steve Gifford, UCBHM  
12 – Sun. Tim preaches in Charleston  
15 – Wed. Conference Retreat Center Committee meeting  
17-18 Fri./Sat. Board of Directors meeting, Shocco Springs, AL  
18 – Sat. Annual Meeting planning meeting, Shocco Springs  
19 – Sun. 11 a.m. – Tim preaches in Rush Memorial, Atlanta  
20 – Mon. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day – OFFICE CLOSED

### February

2 – Sun. Tim preaches in Chattanooga Pilgrim  
8 – Sat. Robert Cox ordination, Midway Congregational, 3 p.m.  
15 – Sat. Annual Meeting planning meeting, Birmingham  
16 – Sun. Tim preaches in Central Congregational, Atlanta, 11 a.m.  
18-25 Council of Conference Ministers, Orlando, FL – Tim gone

## **March**

2 – Sun. TIM DOWNS INSTALLATION – 5:00 p.m.  
3 – Mon. Board of Directors – 8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

# **THE SOUTHEAST NEWS**

Published by the Southeast Conference

United Church of Christ

Conference Minister, Timothy C. Downs

Office Administrator, Nan Wright

Moderator, Annie Neal

Vice Moderator, Jimmy Pilkington

Secretary, Susan Ewing

Treasurer, David Speno

Alabama-Tennessee Association Moderator, Ed Schneider

East Alabama-West Georgia Association Moderator, Jimmy Pilkington

Georgia-South Carolina Association Moderator, Larry Calbert

South Alabama-Northwest Florida Association Moderator, Marvin Brand

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**This transcription was recorded on October 29 and 30, 2013 by Mike Stroud, director of Project 66-16, an initiative to record, compile and write the history of the Southeast Conference of the United Church of Christ.**

